

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1015

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Assembly summit.

WHEREAS, good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve public health; and

WHEREAS, direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus, tuberculosis, and malaria; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is larger than that of three-fourths of the member states already in the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia; maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries; the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, the plague, and polio; and providing hepatitis B vaccinations to children; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974 and the Order of Malta and the Holy See in the early 1950s; and

WHEREAS, the United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that, in light of all the benefits that Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization can bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Session

of the South Dakota State Legislature, endorse observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, U.S. Senator Tom Daschle, U.S. Senator Tim Johnson, U.S. Congressman William Janklow, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, Missouri.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 26, 2003
February 28, 2003

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate